

# **APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW GUIDE VALUE MAPPING INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**

## ***Integrating Social Values in Vegetation Models via GIS: The Missing Link for the Bitterroot National Forest***

JFSP Project No. 04-2-1-114

### **Value Mapping Interview Protocol Community Key Informants**

Community Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewee ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am here on behalf of [Organization]. [List organization's purpose]**

**Right now, we're trying to understand people's connections to the [general area's] landscape and how land management may affect these relationships. Our focus area is along the [more specific area], particularly in the [study area]. I would like to show you a map and ask some questions about the importance of these areas to you. The interview should take about 45 minutes to an hour. Is that okay?**

**In order to make sure that I can keep track of everything you mention, I would like to tape record our conversation. Your comments will not be associated with your name, and your name and contact information will not be available to the public. All information will be stored securely and will be destroyed upon completion of the study. Is it OK to proceed?**

#### **Part 1: Use History**

**I would like to begin by showing you this map of the area.**

[Orient person to the study site map and where we are]

1. **Where do you live on this map?** (mark a dot on map in distinct color if possible)  
**If you cannot locate your residence, what is the closest landmark?**
2. **How many years have you lived in the [broad area]?** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Is this your primary residence?** Y N  
**If NO, how many months per year do you spend in this residence?** \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2: Mapping Landscape Meaning

### 4. **Why do you choose to live here?**

*Probe:*

**What is it that drew you or keeps you in this area?**

**What do you like about the area?**

**What does it mean to you to live in the [broad area]?**

**Could you explain what you mean by...?**

We want to draw out both their type of physical and social/emotional connection to these places...so if answers are social, probe for level, such as family, friends, solo, community, etc.

### 5. **Can you show me places on the [public land] portion of this map that are particularly important to you? Use this pen to draw these areas. We'll number these too, so we can associate your comments to each correctly.**

*If Necessary: As you see, this scale is pretty broad, so there's not a risk of giving away your favorite mushroom, fishing or berry picking spot!*

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*Repeat the following sequence of questions for each of the places specified, preferably at least 3.*

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*Some people may not want to do more than one or two; others may want to do many.*

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### 6. **What is it about this place that is important or special to you?**

*Probes:*

**What are the visits that are of greatest importance to you?**

**What is it that happens or occurs during those times?**

These are in-part '*doing*' or '*being*' sort of questions.

If they answer with *doing*, then try to obtain specifics – if fishing, is it flat water or stream; native or exotic fish, fly or spinning; if it's OHV, what types of areas do they seek? Etc.

Look for both tangible and intangible comments, such as: 'I've logged that area 3 times so I kind of feel proprietary about it'...; 'the air is so clear, calming...'; it's quiet and I can take a walk in peace. I often see deer there..'

*Then probe for deeper understanding.*

Perhaps by asking a reversed question, such as:

**So it wouldn't be the same if... [it wasn't quiet there]...OR... [you didn't see deer]... OR...[if you ran into more people]? Etc.**

**What is it about the place that makes it [peaceful]?**

Do they mention big trees, or solitude, or lack/presence of motorized recreation? We're also interested in both topographic features (peaks, glaciated valleys) as well as seral phases, such as berries, mushrooms, elk forage, old growth.

Also, you may want to ask:

**When you think about the place now, what is it about that site pops to your mind immediately?**

**7. Do you go there most often alone or with others? Like who?**

*Probe:*

**So your attachment is [both social and personal]?**

**Is it the same if you go there with [the reverse] [alone/with other people]?**

**8. If you couldn't go here, are there other places you can go for the same experience?**

*Probe:*

**Is this other place just as good? Why?**

In the event that this question raises alarm, reassure them nothing is planned, but the [managing agency] recognizes that their activities, wherever they are, impact people and we're interested in understanding how such activities affect people's attachments and being in order to take these into consideration.

### Part 3: Changes Due to Fuel Hazard Reduction Treatments

**As you know, minimizing risk of catastrophic fire is a big deal for the [Managing Agency] right now. I would like to ask you about your thoughts on fuel hazard reduction treatments, particularly in these areas we've just discussed.**

**By fuel hazard reduction treatments, I mean treatments that are intended to reduce the potential for high severity fire. In general, this means reducing the number of trees and understory biomass, resulting in a visually more open stand. Methods used to accomplish this could include using prescription fire alone, using mechanical fuel treatments alone, using a combination of prescription burning and mechanical treatments, and allowing lightning ignitions to burn naturally.**

Because we're interested in understanding how the *effects* of these treatments would *affect* you, I'd like to talk about the *outcome* or result *rather than the method* itself. Of course, each creates slightly different outcomes (piling and burning creates small burned areas, broadcast or natural burn create larger burned areas, and mechanical treatment will leave skid trails and roads) -and these sorts of differences are important.

This question may also get folks somewhat alarmed ... as if there's something planned. Reassure them nothing is planned, but the Forest recognizes that their activities, wherever they are, impact people and we're interested in understanding how such activities affect people's attachments and being in order to take these into consideration.

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Ask the following for each of the areas discussed above:

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9. **Thinking about this [first/second/last area], would you approve or disapprove of fuels treatment?** [Be sure to re-state the area number for recording purposes]

*Probe:*

**What is it about the result that you approve or disapprove of?**

**Would treatment affect the importance of this area to you? How/why?**

Refer back to the aspect/dimensions of their experience that they noted earlier and ask specifically whether/how treatment would affect this dimension for them.

**Would it matter to you which method was used to accomplish it?**

**Which method, and why/why not**

**That concludes our interview, we really appreciate your time and your comments. Is there anything else you'd like to note or say about the [Area's] [management activities]?**

#### Part 4: Concluding Information

10. **Would you be interested in receiving a copy of the results of this study? [ Y N ]**  
**If so, what is the best way to get in touch with you?**

End Time: \_\_\_\_\_